

MINUTES  
OPERATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 30, 2014

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. in Room 206 of Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairperson, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Chairman, Susan Cameron; State Representative, Terrie Wood and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

**State Representative**

Mrs. Terrie Wood is preparing for the new legislative session which begins February 3, 2014. Through bi-partisan efforts she continues to push for amendments to 8-30g legislation. The group discussed affordable housing, including incentive housing and inclusionary zoning.

Mrs. Wood announced that she has been asked to co-chair the Special Education Committee of the M.O.R.E. Commission. The main objectives of the committee will be to look at how special education services are delivered and funded.

Mrs. Stevenson and Mr. Kilduff asked Mrs. Wood to look into why, in Hartford, it was decided that FEMA grant funds from Super Storm Sandy would be directed towards infrastructure and not elevation rebuilds. Of particular concern is the fact that FEMA representatives came to the towns in lower Fairfield County and implored community leaders to have constituents apply for the grant funding and then those funds were denied.

**Planning and Zoning**

The Planning & Zoning Commission has approved a sewer extension for A Better Chance (ABC) home on Tokeneke Road. Pedestrian safety for residents of the home is a concern. Tokeneke Road is a state road, so the CT. DOT will need to be involved in any changes to the sidewalks. Sue Prosi, of SWRPA, plans to arrange for an engineer's analysis of Tokeneke Road pedestrian safety.

It was noted that the property on the corner of Middlesex Ave. and Hollow Tree Ridge Rd. will be divided into three lots. In addition, Kensett is considering the purchase of land at the end of Wakemore Rd., which would enable 16 additional units to be built. The entrance would be through Kensett. Affordable units would not be developed on that site but it would generate 2 units of affordable housing in town. Wetland issues may arise. Another developer will be redeveloping the old Noble Brother's site, which is about four acres on Locust Hill.

Mrs. Cameron mentioned that a commissioner on her Board would like to add Public Comment to Planning & Zoning meetings. She has been communicating with the Town's attorney on how public comment would work with a quasi-judicial board.

**Board of Education**

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross indicated that the Board has accepted the resignation of the Director of Special Education. NESDEC has been hired by the Board to aide in the search for a Director of Special Education and the Superintendent of Schools. Additionally, the Board has invited community representatives to provide input in the decisions.

The Board will hold a Public Hearing on its budget in Town Hall on February 4, 2014.

**First Selectman**

Mrs. Stevenson and her Board are presently working on the Town's Budget for FY 2014-2015. The budget discussions will generate some policy decisions including employing civilian dispatchers at the Police Department and a facility maintenance company at the Mather Community Center.

The RTM has voted to support the purchase of the 4 Short Lane property by Weed Beach. Mrs. Stevenson feels the property was an important purchase, as it will provide opportunities for use in the future.

Regionalization work continues for Mrs. Stevenson. She has secured a merger for Darien in the Housatonic Valley Region. Many of the 18 communities in this region deal with similar issues and each community, no matter its size, will get one vote when setting policy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary